CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

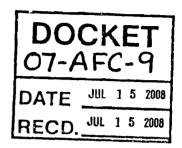
1516 NINTH STREET SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512



July 15, 2008

Cindy Poire, Project Manager **URS** Corporation 130 Robin Hill Road, Suite 100 Santa Barbara, CA 93117

Dear Ms. Poire:



CANYON POWER PLANT DATA REQUEST #56 (07-AFC-9)

Pursuant to Title 20, California Code of Regulations, section 1716, the California Energy Commission staff requests that the Southern California Public Power Authority, the project applicant, supply the information specified in the enclosed data request. The information requested is necessary to assess whether the project will result in significant environmental impacts and to assess potential mitigation measures.

This data request (#56) is being made in the area of cultural resources. A written response to the enclosed data request is due to the Energy Commission staff on or before August 14, 2008, or at such later date as may be mutually agreeable.

If you are unable to provide the information requested, need additional time, or object to providing the requested information, you must send a written notice to both Commissioner Jeffrey D. Byron, Presiding Committee Member for the Canyon Power Plant, and to me, within 20 days of receipt of this letter. The notification must contain the reasons for not providing the information, the need for additional time, and the grounds for any objections (see Title 20, California Code of Regulations, section 1716 (f)).

If you have any questions, please call me at (916) 651-0965, or e-mail me at

cmcfarli@energy.state.ca.us.

Sincerel

Che McFarlin, Project Manager

Energy Facilities Siting

Enclosure

CC:

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Dockets 07-AFC-9

ORIGINAL MANLED FROM SACRAMENTO ON

Canyon Power Plant (07-AFC-9) Data Request, Round 2

Technical Area: Cultural Resources

Author: Beverly E. Bastian

BACKGROUND

In its response to staff's Data Request No. 16, the applicant explained that it was unable to find prior geoarchaeological studies that included the proposed Canyon project site. It is unclear whether the applicant's effort to obtain geoarchaeological information pertinent to the project site also included research into the availability of what may be germane earth science and geoarchaeological literatures of the broader Santa Ana River basin. Staff found the applicant's response to be a limited extrapolation of early historic-period environmental data and a reference to the broad, regional geomorphic province in which the project site lies. Thus, it was insufficient to address the potential for archaeological deposits to be buried a meter or more deep in the native soils of the project area. Staff and the applicant agree that the Santa Ana River and vicinity were extensively used in prehistory and that natural geological processes could have buried archaeological sites in any of the river's associated landforms. Thus staff suggests that the proposed project site may be sensitive for buried archaeological resources, and staff needs the results of a geoarchaeological field investigation to complete its analysis of the proposed project's potential impacts on cultural resources.

DATA REQUESTS

- 56. Please have a qualified geoarchaeologist (able to demonstrate the completion of graduate-level coursework in geoarchaeology or Quaternary science) research the project area and propose a research design to:
 - a. Efficiently sample those areas of the site where project excavations would extend into native soils;
 - Acquire data to determine the precise physical character and ages of the various sedimentary deposits and paleosols beneath the surface in those parts of the proposed project site where the maximum depths of excavation into native soils would be reached;
 - c. Acquire data to determine the depositional rates for the sedimentary facies at the project site; and
 - d. Provide an interpretation of the field data that addresses the historical geomorphology of the project area, the likelihood of there being buried archaeological deposits there, and the anticipated age, cultural affiliation, and significance of any such deposits.
- 57. Please submit the resume (including copies of graduate course transcripts) of the geoarchaeologist and the research design to staff for review and approval.
- 58. When a geoarchaeological research design for the proposed site has been approved by staff, please have the author of the research design conduct the approved testing and submit a report to staff.

BEFORE THE ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION
For the CANYON POWER PLANT
PROJECT

Docket No. 07-AFC-9

PROOF OF SERVICE (REVISED 3/20/2008)

INSTRUCTIONS: All parties shall either (1) send an original signed document plus 12 copies or (2) mail one original signed copy AND e-mail the document to the address for the Docket as shown below, AND (3) all parties shall also send a printed or electronic copy of the document, which includes a proof of service declaration to each of the individuals on the proof of service list shown below:

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION Attn: Docket No. 07-AFC-9 1516 Ninth Street, MS-14 Sacramento, CA 95814-5512 docket@energy.state.ca.us

<u>APPLICANT</u>

Southern California Public Power Authority (SCPPA)
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APPLICANT CONSULTANT

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COUNSEL FOR APPLICANT

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INTERESTED AGENCIES

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<u>INTERVENORS</u>

ENERGY COMMISSION

Jeffrey D. Byron Commissioner and Presiding Member jbyron@energy.state.ca.us

Arthur Rosenfeld Commissioner and Associate Member arosenfe@energy.state.ca.us

Paul Kramer Hearing Officer Pkramer@energy.state.ca.us

Che McFarlin
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Public Adviser's Office pao@energy.state.ca.us

DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, <u>Christina Flores</u>, declare that on <u>July 15, 2008</u>, I deposited copies of the attached <u>Canyon Power Plant (07-AFC-9) Data Request #56</u> in the United States mail at Sacramento, CA, with first-class postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to those identified on the Proof of Service list above.

<u>OR</u>

Transmission via electronic mail was consistent with the requirements of California Code of Regulations, title 20, sections 1209, 1209.5, and 1210. All electronic copies were sent to all those identified on the Proof of Service list above.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Christina Florés